

Statement
by
Her Excellency Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand
at the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit
27 March 2012, Seoul

Mr. President,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

First of all, I wish to join others in expressing my sincere appreciation to you, Mr. President, for hosting this Seoul Summit, and to congratulate President Obama for proposing and inaugurating this important initiative. In today's globalized world of greater connectivity, there is greater risk that nuclear and related materials may fall into the wrong hands. As one of the commercial and logistics hubs of Southeast Asia, Thailand recognizes the importance of protecting the ASEAN Community and beyond from those who may seek to abuse enhanced connectivity in order to engage in nuclear terrorism.

National measures, regional action and international cooperation are critical to the success of the global nuclear security regime. On Thailand's part, we have acted strictly in compliance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions. We are progressing towards ratifying relevant international legal instruments in this area. We strongly support the central role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in enhancing global nuclear security.

Mr. President,

Since the Washington Summit, Thailand joined the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism in June 2010. We have worked closely with our partners under this framework as well as through various bilateral and other initiatives such as the Megaports Initiative and Container Security Initiative. Thailand is also seriously considering the possibility of joining the Proliferation Security Initiative. Meanwhile, we are committed to being part of global efforts to promote nuclear security.

At the regional level, we initiated the International Conference on Safety, Security and Safeguards in Nuclear Energy last September, during which we proposed establishing a network of nuclear regulatory bodies in Southeast Asia that would help make our region safer from nuclear terrorism. We are developing this idea further at the ASEAN Summit next month.

Mr. President,

Nuclear forensics is another effective tool to combat nuclear terrorism. Working with partners in the ASEAN Regional Forum, we hosted a workshop to build capacities and awareness on nuclear forensics in the region. Thailand is also in the process of establishing a Centre of Excellence for nuclear forensics to strengthen our technical capacities in nuclear detection.

To conclude, all of us here share a common goal of a world free of nuclear terrorism, which will help contribute to a world free of nuclear weapons. Thailand welcomes the offer by Turkey to host the next Sherpa Meeting. On our part, if agreeable to all, Thailand would be honoured to be a venue for the Sherpa meeting after Turkey. Through our joint efforts and political will, we can help pave the way for a safer and more secure world for future generations. Thank you.
